Titusville Amateur Radio Club

TARC NewsLetter

April 1992

The President's Corner

Boy what a fantastic year the TARC has experienced. In addition to the nearly 150 members on the roster, we feel a definite reawakening of the ham spirit in the many activities of the club.

To list the club members who are donating their time to make our club better would require just about every name on the roster. We are enjoying the growth of the Mosquito Net, the fellowship at the Sunday morning Elk's club breakfast, the Morrison Thursday night gettogether, and my personal thanks to all the Volunteer Examiners who have supported the W5YI VEC amateur radio test sessions. Thanks guys for the support given to the club's projects.

We look forward to our next Fox Hunt... Larry, WB9MFJ will schedule the next hunt. All attendees to the various hamfests will agree that we sure enjoy them all.

Don't forget the club meeting -- bring a friend.

73's, Bud K4CWG

The Editor's Desk

By Doug Reed - N4QVY

I've often told myself that I wouldn't fill the *TARC Newsletter* with articles not pertaining to the members of TARC. This, I've decided over the past four years, meant not cramming the newsletter with only bulletins, only my ramblings, or any other such filler (although this edition certainly does have alot of my ramblings). I've seen other newsletters startup with *all* of the articles written by the editor. These do not last, and end up being published even more sporadically than this one. I have decided that the minutes *should* be included, in whole, to let those members who desire not to or are unable to come to the meetings to know where their monies are being spent, and how. I've also decided that each issue should include a blurb from the President, and sometimes that can be inconvenient but usually not painful. I've also been persuaded (to good effect) to include helpful information such as local club repeaters and people to call when someone needs help, be it an antenna raising or moral support. The latest permanent info will be the special repeater codes (except for autopatch) printed in a convenient to cut area as long as the powers that be allow.

Member written articles, however, get the highest priority for inclusion into the newsletter (except for Val's almost two year old article on Field Day that *will* run in this year's Field Day issue...

See Desk on page 2.

Officers

President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice-President: Cliff Hoag KC4SYD 267-7030
Secretary: Jerry Richards KC4YDP 459-2073
Treasurer: Walt Hart KC4VVG 267-4590

Hugo de NP2BF QTH St. Croix

[The following is, word-for-word, what St. Croix amateur radio operator NP2BF said about the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, copied by Pike Abell, W4EPU]

I am located on the west end of the island of St. Croix. From night before last when Hurricane Hugo passed over with wind speeds from 150 to 170 mph we have been in a state of total devastation. Passage around island is extremely precarious. In many cases needing 4 wheel drive vehicles. Individuals have been on the roads with chain saws cleaning downed trees. Power has been interrupted and from my vantage point i couldn't conceive of the power being restored for a long, long time.

It is inconceivable the amount of damage done. The thing that seems to be concerning most people is the widespread looting that is taking place over the last day and a half -- absolutely unbelievable and unchecked -- out and out looting of all stores -- the food stocks are gone and people driving up with their pickup trucks and whatever they can put their hands on and just absolutely looting anywhere and anything. No known control function -- to say the least.

See Hugo on page 3.

Upcoming Events

‹› **April 28, May 26, June 23** - Next TARC meetings, 7 p.m., JayCees building on Singleton Ave.
‹› **April 26, June 14** - FSEC events that require communications support. Call Bill Young, KA4VYH, 269-4609.
‹› Every Wednesday night - TARC Mosquito Net, 7:30 p.m., 28.333 MHz.
‹› Every Thursday night - TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz (-600).
‹› 2nd Tuesday of each month - RACES meeting, 7:30 p.m., Emergency Operations Center in Rockledge (1749 Cedar Street).
‹› 3rd Saturday of each month - SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q11 in The Quad (under ham radio mast). For info call Bill Newkirk, WB9IVR, phone 724-6183.

honest!). They rarely get edited except for spelling (when I catch them). For you writers out there that have submitted articles... Thank You! If you've given me articles that never ran, let me know or give me another copy of them. For you readers out there... if there was an article that you enjoyed that you would like to read again, let me know about it and I'll try to re-run it (I'll may have to use the library services of Fred N4KVN). For those of you that keep asking when the next newsletter is coming out, you might consider writing something *for* the newsletter. It doesn't have to be anything awe inspiring... it can be a review on a just acquired piece of equipment (new or old), an article about how you liked a particular hamfest, or a how-to article on any ham stuff.

Irks and quirks that I've heard (or thought of)... Noise at test sessions... some of the examiners should take the code test at 1 wpm faster than they can copy to understand the aggravation. Nets... why check in without staying through the whole net... why have someone else check in for you because you won't be around... I know that there's a desire to get into Morrisons before the mad rush, but the purpose of having a net (dissemination of information to and from all the parties) is being defeated (just my opinion, mind you). Repeaters that have conversations with themselves. Sound effects on the ham bands. By the way, if you're *really* interested, Electronic Rainbow (317-291-7262) in Indianapolis has some SE kits... call and ask for their "CB Noise Toys" flyer. They don't have a gun shot listed, but do have quite a few others (including "Train & Steam", "Fog Horn", and "Make My Day". I guess that's enough Wayne Green cynicism for this issue; on to more important issues.

Ken N9EZV (ex-WA9FQT) and Lorraine N9FAB (ex-WB9UVF) have some great news! On April 18 they will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They're originally from Schaumberg, Illinois where Motorola Radio is and now live in Port St. John. Ken says that they both upgraded on the same day to get sequential callsigns. Looks like the FCC knocked over a stack of applications and did a slight reshuffling.

Carole KC4VIN reports that the Mosquito Net now has 284 members from 41 states and 7 countries. Confirmed QSL's number 37 states and 4 countries. She now sends out a letter that includes information about the net and a history compendium of Titusville that was written by Les K4BZJ.

Cliff KC4SYD reports that the Friendship Net has been averaging 35 check-ins with the March 5 hitting 48. He's started an "Audio Bulletin Board" that he tries to get out all important bulletins at the beginning of the net. Besides the immediate area, there have been check-ins from Mount Dora, Satellite Beach, Melbourne, Boynton Beach, and West Orlando. He also says that Larry WB9MFJ notes that the K4SJC repeater has been getting 1200 to 1500 key-ups a day.

Bill Young KA4VYH is soliciting help for Florida Solar Energy Center's upcoming events. The first takes place at the center during their Open House on April 26 that includes a couple of races, one sponsored by the Electric Automobile Association of Florida highlighting electric go-cart vehicles constructed by high school students and the second by the Florida Society of Automotive Engineers highlighting solar model cars (steer by wire) constructed by seventh and eighth grade students.

The second big FSEC event, the Second Annual FSEC SunDay Challenge, takes place on June 14. A race starting at 10 a.m. of alternate fueled (solar, electric, Tour de Sol, DOE Sunrayce, and other non-gasoline non-diesel) vehicles will commence from the Orlando area to the FSEC location in Cape Canaveral. If you can help out with communications for either day's events, call Bill at 269-4609.

I bought the Ramsey FTR-144 transceiver kit at the Tampa hamfest and finally got around to putting it together. It is a 5 watt PLL unit with 6 frequencies selected through a hardwired programmable diode matrix. You can add more selections if you make up your own matrix board. You could also interface the matrix to a computer and allow the computer to control the frequency selection. It can run simplex and +/- 600 KHz offsets (also matrix selected). For packeteers, it includes a 5 pin DIN jack that interfaces pin for pin (except for one) to the standard TAPR-2 configuration. Pin 5, however, provides +12 volts on the radio side, which is usually Audio Squelch on the TAPR-2 clone TNC's. A simple cut in the printed circuit trace removes the +12 volts. A Yaesu HT speaker mike (ugottabuy) plugs into the front panel of the optional case (highly recommended). Problems... a couple of capacitors measured bad, and a couple were missing. All were replaced from the junk box. The oscillators for the receiver oscillator, simplex, +600 KHz, and -600 KHz transmit oscillators would not adjust correctly with the capacitors provided. So a few more raids to the junkbox netted capacitors that would allow the oscillators to work correctly. I'd recommend getting the picofarad capacitor assortment from Radio Shack before starting.

Assembly for the kit is pretty straightforward as you complete the kit in sections: DC power input, receiver audio amplifier, receiver FM detector and squelch, receiver 10.7 MHz - IF - and 4 pole crystal filter, and 13 more. Les, K4SJC, was able to get the receiver sensitivity down to around .35 uV (12 db SINAD) which is what Ramsey says is typical. Output is 5 watts (you do have to adjust a couple of coils as the documentation *hints* at to achieve this). I'm having problems with AC hum amplification through the microphone amplifier, which ends up mixing with the audio input and creates a couple of disgusting extra tones. Not real good for packet operation yet. There's a coil on the circuit board that is susceptible to microphonics (tapping it with PTT keyed sounds like tapping the microphone directly), which I'll probably paraffin one of these days. I've just received a couple of technical notes from Ramsey that may help and I'll let you know the outcome after I work on it a little more. Ramsey does seem intent on raising the price on this unit every six months or so. It used to cost $129 for the kit. At the Orlando 'fest it was $149 for the kit plus $29 for the box. No special deals. I paid $149 for the kit *and* the box in Tampa. If they keep going like this, it may be a better deal to get Alinco's DR-1200T data radio for $249.

The DR-1200T is almost identical to their DR-112T except it has no microphone (just the cable), and puts out only 25W rather than 45W. The DR-112T runs about $339, and I wonder if it's not possible to squeeze out those other 20W. The spec sheets are identical, except for the power out (even the advertising propaganda... just about word for word). Another fair deal is Alinco's DR-110T, $300 for 45W *and* a microphone. And you don't have to build or tweak any of them. Alinco has also just released a Kenwood TH77 clone, the DJ-580T, for what started out as $380-400, and will soon jump up another $60, just around twenty to forty smackers shy of what the Kenwood goes for.

OPTOELECTRONICS (yup, the whole name's capitalized) has been advertising their 2810 "Hasta La Vista Baby" counter in the magazines for a few months now. I picked one up at the Miami Hamfest and am very impressed at what it provides for the $159 special price. The circuit board and case used for this model is identical to their higher priced model 3000, and the owner's manual actually covers the 2600HA, 2600H, 2810, and 3000. The

See Desk on page 4.

Notes of the First Tailgate Party Committee Meeting
by Carole Ramos KC4VIN

The committee met March 2, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at Casa Ramos. Those in attendance were Neale Cranston W4GMW, Les Widdick K4BZJ, Cliff Hoag KC4SYD, Jim Meeks N4ZNQ, Jose' Ramos KC4VIO, and Carole Ramos KC4VIN.

Neale told us the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Fly-in theme will be From Ragwings to Rockets. They are going to emphasize the history of aviation and history of Titusville. This is the seventh year of their event. They want to keep the main participation local and not get too big.

Neale said that Building #10 may not be available for us to use and we won't know until probably a few days before October 3, which is the date of the Tailgate Party. They will provide us with electricity and portolets. We can use the same area for tailgaters that we used before, plus the north side of the hanger if we need it. The EAA is not going to permit us to sell food or drinks because that is the only way they earn money for the next year's event. Our participation must be kept charge free. We do not need a license or insurance for the Tailgate Party.

Some of the things they would like for us to do:

1. Have some antique radios, transmitters, keys, and receivers for display to visitors.
2. Set up an information booth or area for the public to ask questions pertaining to all aspects of amateur radio, including a representative of RACES and ARRL, and information and handouts if possible.
3. Operate SSB, CW, FM, packet, and ATV stations showing the possibilities of amateur radio in action.

Cliff is going to draw up a diagram of the tailgate area so we can determine how many we will be able to accommodate. Cliff, Jim, Carole, and anyone else who would like to, are going to go to the airport and see what the additional area north of the hanger looks like (date undetermined but soon). Les suggested that we get as many tailgaters to reply as possible in order to have a rough idea of how many to expect. Jim will make any necessary signs and we will try to locate the TARC sign that Les made a few years ago.

Les is building a tower on a trailer frame for an antenna that we may use for one of our antennas. We will have to determine what other antennas we will need based on the types of stations we decide to operate.

We all agreed that there will be no fees and to keep it simple, fun, informative, and only one day for the Tailgating (Saturday, time not discussed). The flyer was approved and Carole made a few minor changes, adding Cliff's phone number to it and some rewording.

We all thanked Neale for talking to us and letting us know what we can and cannot do and his suggestions as to what he would like to see us do, and for welcoming our participation again this year.

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 p.m.

The committee consists of Carole Ann Ramos KC4VIN, Jose' Ramos KC4VIO, Bud Hughes K4CWG, Les Griner K4SJC, Cliff Hoag KC4SYD, Les Widdick K4BZJ, Jim Meeks N4ZNQ, and Neale Cranston W4GMW.

Hugo...

Fuel is in short supply -- we don't know when Heathrow Oil, the refinery on the island, might be able to supply additional fuel. Those of us working on emergency power are trying to do so quite conservatively, because we don't know when the power may be restored, or when fuel will be made available to us. All I can say is there is massive widespread destruction, actually horrendous destruction. My understanding, through discussions with people today, I understand they will call in martial law and need -- whether Federal troops are required, I'm not sure, but will certainly need whatever governments are responsible for this sort of thing, we need whatever might be available. So with that I must conserve my power. I hope I have given you a faint picture of what has taken place, the houses are gone and absolute total destruction.

TARC (K4SJC) Repeater Controller Quick Reference

*9	Dial 911 IMMEDIATELY - Set for 10 minutes timeout.
*8	Dial Titusville Police
*7	Dial KSC Security
#	Release Autopatch
*XYZ	Autodial XYZ
5	PAD TEST - All numbers following the 5 will be read back.
3**1	Mailbox Message #1 - The high, low, and current daily temps.
3**2	Mailbox Message #2
3**3	Mailbox Message #3
3**4	Mailbox Message #4
3**5	Mailbox Message #5
30	Random Sign-on Message
31	CW ID Message
32	Anxious ID
36	Special ID
39	Time of Day
814	Current Temperature
814*	Low Temperature for the day
814**	High Temperature for the day
815	Controller Temperature (815* recorded low, 815** recorded high)
816	Controller Voltage (816* recorded low 816** recorded high)
825	Number of key-ups for the day
827	Number of phone patches for the day

Remember to ID. Also keep these codes within the club. If we end up having problems they can be disabled if needed.

The **TARC Newsletter** is usually published on a monthly basis. Articles are published based on their newsworthiness to TARC membership, space available, and ease of entry to the publishing medium.

Preferred transfer methods are EMail to *Doug Reed* at Tech-Talk BBS, EMail on 2 meter packet to N4QVY@N4JLR or N4QVY@WD4HIM, direct packet, 3.5" AmigaDOS 880K disk, 3.5" MS-DOS 720K disk, 5.25" MS-DOS 360K disk, direct landline modem, and print / hand-written / hardcopy formats, in that order. Separate each paragraph with a blank line for ease of re-formatting into a publishing format.

Article / classified deadline is two Fridays prior to the date of the monthly meeting.

Articles may be given to the editor, Doug - N4QVY, at the IHOP on net nights, or left with Bud - K4CWG, where it will hopefully make its way to the aforementioned editor.

The **TARC Newsletter** is assembled on an Amiga 2500/30 computer using Gold Disk's Professional Page desktop publishing software and output to a LaserJet compatible laser printer. Folding, stamping, and mailing services this month will be done by the gang at IHOP and labels will be printed up by Bud, K4CWG, who requests that any address / name / phone number corrections be directed his way. Thanks to all those involved in this maddening event.

Titusville Repeaters

K4SJC	146.910 MHz		- 600 KHz
WB4LOE	146.970 MHz		- 600 KHz
WB4SIG	444.150 MHz	CTCSS: 103.5	+ 5 MHz

Desk

schematic is included in the manual, and has dashed boxes around the differences in the various models. I have opened mine up to try toggling to the modes (period, time interval, ratio) found in the 3000 by grounding one of the inputs to the processor, and the display does change. I didn't try feeding both inputs with signals to test these functions, but I feel confident that if I ever add the extra switch that I can get it to run. The case is punched out for the switch, and the plastic that currently covers that location can be easily trimmed out with an X-Acto. The counter is *fast*! Its sampling rate is more than 100 times faster (.01 seconds) than OPTOELECTRONICS' older LED counters at 146 MHz, where the resolution measures down to 100 Hz. From 10 Hz to 230 MHz, it can gate from .01 seconds to 10 seconds with a corresponding resolution of 100 Hz to .1 Hz. There are two prescaler positions in addition to the direct count: prescale by 4 (up to 920 MHz) and by 16 (up to 3 GHz). Options not included on the 2810 include the bargraph (the display's got it, but you have to add the components... and a couple are surface mount), backlighting, low battery warning (display and beeper), and a temperature compensated crystal oscillator (TCXO) for the timebase. Regardless of whether or not you want to hack these other features into the 2810, it still is quite a bargain just for the counter. And the batteries last a heck of a lot longer than in the old LED models!

Many thanks to all the contributors. I hope that everyone enjoys the home-grown articles that we've got and let those authors know! One of these days I'll get around to actually reading some of the other clubs newsletters and I'll be putting some of their gossip in our newsletter as well. I tend to accumulate PCARS, IRARC, and a couple of out of staters sent to me by Bob W2NCF. Sorry about not running the Christmas Parade story, Jose'. And darn... no paid advertising this month.

If anyone knows of a ham needing any kind of support, whether he or she be ill or in need of an antenna raising, contact one of the individuals listed below.

Clyde Lee	K4EOS	267-9375
Lloyd Mullins	K4LTK	267-6342
Dan Boyle	K3KS	268-2469
Cliff Hoag	KC4SYD	267-7030

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781